Central assistance to States

2458. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central assistance to States has fallen considerably than the projections during the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to reach the targets in the coming year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Normal Central Asssistance of Rs. 16591.62 crores have been released to States against allocation of Rs. 17452.93 crores for the Annual Plan 2001-02. Shortfall in release is due to cuts imposed on account of shortfall in plan expenditure as per guidelines of the Planning Commission and on account of non-submission of audited expenditure details. States are being requested to take necessary measures to improve utilisation of Central Assistance allocated for the Annual Plans.

Broad based budgetary proposals

2459. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he held discussion with different strata of society *viz.* industrials, trade unions, agriculturists etc. before the formulation of the broad based proposals;

(b) whether the State Governments have urged upon Government to have similar consultation with them so that they could present their view point to Government;

(c) whether the involvement of State Government will keep in the proper implementation fixed by the Central Government in the budget; and

(d) if so, in what manner Government propose to have broad based budgetary consultations with the State Governments?